

Atty. Dkt. No.: 135272 (SPLG 1041)

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraphs [0005] and [0007] with the following paragraphs.

[0005] However, at the point where the ultrasound system could acquire and display three dimensional volumes in real-time, the anatomical region that was imaged was too small in size or resolution to be diagnostically useful. Thus, prior ultrasound systems were limited to slowly displaying large regions or high resolutions, or quickly displaying small regions (without sufficient content) or low resolutions quickly. In other words, in three dimensional imaging in particular, ~~there was a limit~~ there was al-limit to how large of an image could be acquired and displayed in real-time with sufficient resolution in time and space while presenting clinically relevant data.

[0007] One technique for compensating for the physical limitations in acquiring ultrasound data, was to acquire several sequences (cineloops) of sub-volumes. The sub volumes could be combined together in order to create a larger image which could be displayed after the acquisition of all the sub-volumes was finished (see for example, U.S. Pat. No. 6,544,175 to Philips Richard M. Newman). Thus, ultrasound data acquired in different heart cycles (but at the same time relative to the heart cycle) were displayed together. However, this technique suffers from a significant drawback in that the display of the full image is done only after the acquisition of all of the sub-volumes. During acquisition, only data from the presently acquired subregion is displayed. Thus, the doctor or technician performing the acquisition only obtains limited diagnostic information during acquisition.